

RAILROAD BUILDING.

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SOUTH IN THIS LINE.

Careful and Interesting Article on This Subject--Records of New Mileage Compared With Those of the Northern and Western States.

One of the most significant elements in the industrial and commercial progress of the South, says the Manufacturers' Record, is the wide-spread and rapid increase in railroad building that has manifested at present in nearly every Southern State. The new mileage that has actually been constructed during the first six months of this year in thirteen Southern States is greater than has ever before been recorded, and railway facilities in that wonderful region of resources more than have ever and more varied than all the rest of the United States.

HALF YEAR CONSTRUCTION.

The latest figures of construction for the half-year, those given by the Railroad Gazette, show that these thirteen Southern States contributed 1,185 miles new road to the total, 1,588 miles, divided as follows:

	Miles
Alabama	95
Florida	183
Kentucky	74
Louisiana	30
Mississippi	45
Missouri	161
North Carolina	102
Tennessee	44
Texas	102
Virginia	1,108

These figures may not look very large in comparison with the new mileage that has been recorded for some of the Western States in past years. Georgia's 183 miles may appear trifling beside the 2,000 miles of new line that was laid in Colorado in 1882, and the 102 miles that were set against North Carolina may look rather insignificant when put beside the 1,101 miles that were credited to Nebraska's new mileage account three years ago, but the importance of significance lies in the comparison of what other States can show in new mileage.

When it is noted that Kansas has laid only 100 miles of new line this year, and that Nebraska only 40 miles, and when it is further observed that neither Georgia nor North Carolina has ever before shown such much new mileage, the significance of the figures will be apparent. In the New England and Middle Atlantic states a distinctively industrial region may be given as follows:

	Mileage. Trib. area
Pennsylvania	8,436 5,45
New York	6,981 6,83
Connecticut	2,083 3,74
New Jersey	2,695 3,96
Maine	1,022 2,29
New Hampshire	1,195 824
Vermont	1,010 4,70
Delaware	559 10,64
Rhode Island	314 2,73
Total mileage	25,360
Acre per mile of railroad, 16.63 square miles.	

A summary of these tables will show the following facts:

Seventeen Western States, with an aggregate area of 1,147,184 square miles, have a total of 16,240 miles of new line that was laid in 1882, and the 102 miles that were set against North Carolina.

Carolina may look rather insignificant when put beside the 1,101 miles that were credited to Nebraska's new mileage account three years ago, but the importance of significance lies in the comparison of what other States can show in new mileage.

Georgia and Carolina lies in their comparison with what other States can show in new mileage.

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